



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

September 2021

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2021 -22 school year at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

The start of the 2021 - 2022 school year looks a bit different than last year. We have moved towards a 'Quadmaster' format– two classes per day for half the semester - and the return of extra-curriculars. Although these changes may result in some anxiety, rest assured that the staff at Holy Cross have been working hard to make the start-up safe and smooth for everyone.

We really look forward to the return of extra-curriculars as well as in-person learning. The pandemic is still very much with us and so we all continue together to ensure everyone's safety.

This year's board theme – Beloved Children of God – reminds us that all are truly God's beloved children and challenges us to ensure a soft September start, where we celebrate the return of an in-person community for most of us and support those learners who will be joining us remotely.

Please review the following information that details some of the procedures we are following this year:

1. Daily School Schedule:

Quad 1 (1 - 2)	LUNCH	Quad 1 (3 - 4)
8:30 – 9:50	11:10 – 11:55	11:55 – 1:20
9:50 – 9:55 Break		1:10 – 1:15 Break
9:55 – 11:10		1:15 – 2:30

This Month

- September 7– First day of classes
- September 9– FASD Awareness Day
- September 11– 9/11 20th anniversary
- September 19– Terry Fox (virtual)
- September 20 - 1st modified Fire Drill
- September 21– Catholic School Council Mtg (Virtual)
- September 30– National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (federal)

2. Students must complete the covid-19 school screener daily before arriving at school. Click on the link <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

3. Beginning September 7th, students must be in proper fall uniform. The uniform policy can be found on the HCToday web site under the **About Us** tab. Please note that beginning this fall, green crested golf shirts are allowed year round. In the fall and winter, they must be paired with HC gray pants or the kilt. The HC uniform creates a sense of community within our student body and should be worn properly during school hours.

Principal's message cont'd

4. Face Masks must be worn properly when inside the school. Students are permitted to remove their mask while eating or taking a drink of water. Masks may be removed when outdoors when social distancing allows. Within the building, please adhere to social distancing and hand sanitization guidelines.
5. **LUNCH:** The cafeteria will not be serving food this semester. Students may use microwaves remembering to use hand sanitizer/wipes before and after each use. Students are asked to eat outside or in the cafeteria – remembering to socially distance and follow capacity limits. Chairs should not be removed from tables to create larger groups. If eating outdoors, please remember to gather recyclables and litter.
6. Lockers will be available this year for student use. Students must pay their student fee through – hOnline.com – Part of the student fee includes the price of the new school lock that must be used at HC. Locker information can be found in the Student Aspen portal under details. Locker combinations will be handed out in the students period 1 class on September 7th. Students in Grade Ten who purchased a lock last year will find their combinations in their morning class.
7. Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school. For safety reasons water fountains are not available; Only water bottle stations are available for water refills.

Together, we will make this year as joy-filled and safe as possible for the entire HC Community.

Terri Daniel

Principal

September 7, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) and our community partners are committed to providing safe and caring school communities and learning environments for students, staff, school visitors and community members. We believe that each person should be able to study, work and attend our Catholic schools in an environment that is safe and free from threats of violence. The ALCDSB acknowledges the importance of promoting and supporting appropriate and positive student behaviours in schools. It is our hope that all members of our community demonstrate respect for the dignity of all persons.

In 2011, the ALCDSB and its community partners adopted the ALCDSB Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP). This risk/threat assessment process is designed to be a proactive and multi-disciplinary approach to developing intervention plans that address threats of violence, threatening behaviour and instances where the emotional and/or physical safety of individuals may be at risk. Recognizing that violence prevention in our schools and neighbourhoods is a community responsibility, the risk/threat assessment process will be initiated by school administration and/or community partners when behaviours have been identified that pose a potential risk to an individual or to others.

Providing notice to parents/guardians of the risk/threat assessment process ensures that parents/guardians are aware that threatening or high-risk behaviours will be investigated. This also recognizes the important role that the parents/guardians have in supporting and participating in the process itself. For further information, the Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP) document may be found on our website at <http://www.alcddb.on.ca/Board/Policies/Lists/Documents/CTAP2016.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Smith-Dewy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Carey Smith-Dewy
Superintendent of Education

Attendance Procedures

Regular attendance greatly improves a student's chances for success in school, and until a student is 18 it is their parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure that they are in attendance daily. **If your student is going to be absent**, either for part of the day or for the full day , please advise the school through our online app, **Safe Schools** . If you are unable to access the online application, please call the attendance office at 613-384-1919 extension 2, or send an email to flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca and provide a general explanation for the absence. If we do not receive a call about an absence, an automated call will go home to remind you to verify that you are aware of the absence.

If a student will **not be in class due to a school activity**, such as a field trip, participation in a sporting event or the cancellation of busses due to weather, you should not need to contact the school.

Occasionally a call will go home in error. If you receive an absence call, and your student says they were in class, or that they were at a school event, please call the attendance office so that we may look into the error, and ensure attendance is accurate.



"Music at Holy Cross is Returning in Full Swing!"

I am incredibly excited to announce that we will be returning to "true" instrumental music once again at Holy Cross! All Ministry- and OMEA-approved precautions will be in place as we start the return to incredible music making. There have also been some preliminary talks regarding a "Spring Band Trip" within our scope of travel. Details to follow as our semester unfolds.

Outstanding Instruments: If there are any students who are not continuing in Instrumental Music for the 2021/22 year, and still have a Holy Cross instrument at home, we are asking you to return it to the school either on or before the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021. We are grateful for your cooperation in this regard.

Best of luck to everyone as we embark on a new year of artistic excellence at Holy Cross!

Dave Orser
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School



Quadmester Calendar

Quadmester 1 : Sept 7—November 10

Exam Days : Nov 11– Nov 12

Quadmester 2 : Nov 15 - Jan 27

Exam Days : Jan 28– Jan 31

Quadmester 3: Feb 3– April 12

Exam Days: April 13– April 14

Quadmester 4: April 19– June 23

Exam Days: June 24 - June 28



PASTORAL NEWS



Beloved
Children of God
2021/2022

The pastoral team is excited to meet both new and returning students as we begin the 2021/2022 academic year. We hope everyone had time to relax, enjoy themselves, and find renewed inspiration over the summer months!

This year's pastoral theme, "**Beloved Children of God,**" builds upon last year's theme of our school fostering a community that welcomes all people. It is based upon 1 John 3:1: *See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.* In the year ahead, we are invited to reflect upon the astounding knowledge that God knows each of us individually and calls us into relationship. We pray that coming to a deeper appreciation of our shared identity as God's children would inspire us to greater love.

As we begin the school year, be sure to stay tuned for information regarding CICS (Crusaders in Community Service)! CICS is a faith and social outreach club that organizes volunteer opportunities around the school and within the Kingston community. We look forward to getting back to this important work!

Please join me in welcoming Fr. John Hibbard as the new pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish. His appointment takes effect September 14th. Please continue to pray for Fr. Amato during this time of transition.

Let us ask God to bless the Holy Cross community in the year ahead. May we encounter his love, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, and extend it to one another.

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

Beloved Children of God

Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at www.hctoday.ca

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

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(613) 384-1919

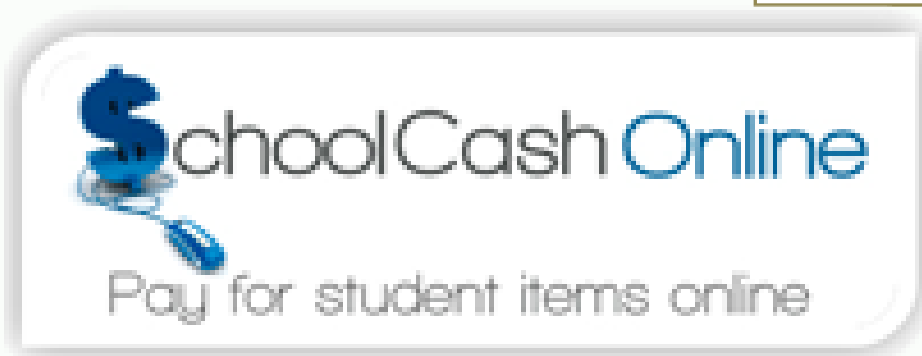
Looking Forward to October

Oct 1– P D day

Oct 11– Thanksgiving

Oct 13– Mid-term marks posted

**Oct 15– full disclosure date for
Gr 11/12 courses**



Student Activity Fees:

Don't forget to pay your student activity fees online at School Cash Online.

Connect to the link from the HCtoday.ca website.

Fee amounts:

Grade 9—\$85.00– includes ID Card, T shirt, Yearbook, lock, non uni days

Grade 10-12 - \$65.00– includes ID card, non uni days, HC yearbook

Grade 12 Graduates - \$35.00 additional for grad expenses

For assistance or to opt out of the Yearbook purchase, please contact Mrs Petrie at ext 3402



Beloved Children of God

2021/2022

Our Vision:

We imagine a world where all are empowered to reach their full potential through faith and service.

Our Mission:

The ALCDSB builds faith-filled learning communities where each member is loved, inspired, and successful.

Our Values:

- Our Catholic faith and the joy that comes from living Christ-centred lives
- Responsibility and Stewardship
- Equity and Well-Being

Individual Success & Accomplishment

Terri Daniel

Principal

Counsellor's Corner:

Timetable changes and course load:

All students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will carry a full course load which is 4 credits per semester. Students in grade 12 who have a minimum of 24 credits may elect to have 2 spares. All grade 12 students must carry at least 2 courses in each semester. Returning students interested in playing sports will need to have 2 courses in each semester in order to be eligible to play. It is the view of the school that students fully engaged in the classroom will perform better academically and will progress to graduation with fewer challenges.

Students have until Monday, September 13 to request a timetable change. Students must meet with their guidance counsellor to discuss their request.

Counsellor Assignments:

Mrs. Cantarutti:

Grade 9 L-R

Grade 10 K-Q

Grade 11 A-E

Grade 12 G-R, Grade 12 Returners J-S

Mrs. Vella-Bowry:

Grade 9 A-K

Grade 10 A-J

Grade 11 F-O

Grade 12 A-F, Grade 12 Returners A-I

Mrs. LeSarge:

Grade 9 S-R

Grade 10 R-Z

Grade 11 P-Z

Grade 12 S-Z, Grade 12 Returners T-Z

Post-Secondary Information:

Post-secondary information sessions will be available soon. Counsellors will be visiting grade 12 classrooms and will post an informational video on the Guidance Page. Universities and Colleges will also offer online presentations and informational sessions. Students should be researching on the Ontario Universities Application Center site – www.ouac.on.ca and on the www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca for Ontario university information; and for college research, students should be using www.ontariocolleges.ca

Dates to keep in mind:

October – online applications are available for college and university applications

January 13 – deadline date for students to apply to Ontario University Application Center

February 1 – deadline date for students to apply to Ontario College Application Center

Ontario University Fair – Saturday, Sept. 25 12-2 and Tuesday, Oct. 26 5-7

All Ontario universities will participate in these free events and anyone may attend - pre-registration is not required.

Each event will be divided up into four 30-minute sessions, where students can learn about the universities of their choice and ask questions. These events are a great opportunity to get answers about programs, admission requirements, student life and much more. Visit www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca for more information.



2021 – 2022 Updated Uniform Policy

After input from students, staff and parents, we are adding a year-round golf shirt option to the Holy Cross uniform. HC green golf shirts can be worn with the HC pants, kilt, or shorts. Shorts are still restricted to the spring uniform later in the year. We hope this increases comfort level and available options, while maintaining the high standards and consistency a uniform embodies. The following is our revised uniform policy:

Students are to wear the Holy Cross uniform at all times during the school day, including the lunch hour and during spare periods. Uniforms are available for purchase through McCarthy's, our supplier, online-only this year.

The uniform has several functions: safety, convenience, cost and community. Visitors to Holy Cross are readily identifiable to staff, enhancing security in our building. Students essentially have one wardrobe decision to make in the mornings. The cost to families over time for clothing is reduced. The uniform takes into account comfort and equity. Students in uniform have chosen to be part of a community of equals and demonstrate their desire to be a Crusader by wearing the uniform with pride.

The fall and winter uniform is in effect from September to June.

The fall uniform is described below:

Girls: solid grey Holy Cross dress pants **or** the Holy Cross kilt with black tights. White Holy Cross crested blouse **or** green golf shirt.

Boys: solid grey Holy Cross dress pants; white Holy Cross crested dress shirt with school tie **or** green golf shirt.

Optional: School crested vest, pull over, zippered sweater or cardigan.

Footwear: no boots, no slides, no flip-flops, sturdy and comfortable casual dress shoes should be worn.

****Students **may** wear a black long-sleeved shirt underneath the golf shirt, if needed.

The spring uniform option is in effect from May until the end of June. The shirts and shorts described below must be worn together: students are not to mix with the fall uniform.

Unisex: green school crested golf shirt and tan knee length Holy Cross crested walking shorts.

Footwear: deck shoes, running shoes, sandals are permitted.

****Students **may** wear a black long-sleeved shirt underneath the golf shirt, if needed.

Updated Uniform Policy cont'd

Students are deemed to be out of uniform if they do not have one or more components, including footwear, or, if they have accessorized the uniform excessively, including wearing any form of headgear, hood or hat. A student unable to correct an issue is out of uniform and will be issued a warning for a first offence and this will be noted in Aspen, our data collection system. If a student receives a second warning for being out of uniform, it will be noted in Aspen and a study hall will be issued and parents will be contacted. If a student receives a third warning, parents will be contacted and students will be either sent home to correct the problem or sent to the main office to complete their schoolwork for the day.

Non-uniform days are also governed by a dress code that requires students to refrain from wearing immodest, revealing clothing and/or clothing with inappropriate design/language promoting drugs, alcohol, or sex. **Changing clothes in the halls is not permitted.**

Support is provided to students throughout this process through the main office. Should there be needs, they will be addressed separately and not pursued as an issue requiring discipline. Nothing is more important than having students in class, learning. However, persistent and willful violations of the Holy Cross uniform policy will be interpreted as an unwillingness, on the part of parents and/or students, to join our school community, and may result in exclusion from school.

As always, common sense will prevail in the application of discipline as it relates to the school uniform. Communication between students and staff is paramount and will almost always result in a satisfactory resolution of any issue related to uniform. Your support for the policy and cooperation in ensuring it succeeds in keeping our school safe, convenient, cost effective and unified is appreciated.



Secondary School Return to Athletics Training

Information for Student-Athlete and Staff/Coach Safety at ALCDSB

September 2021

The guidance provided below is subject to change depending on evolving public health circumstances and updates from our local public health units.

Inter-School Athletics:

- Inter-school athletics will resume in accordance with direction from the Ministry of Education and guidance from local Public Health Units.
- Secondary schools can return to training for fall sports as this program has been approved by the KFLA and HPE Health Units.

Coaches and student-athletes can begin practices in the first week of school (Sept 7-11).

ALCDSB Fall Sports are (subject to availability) as follows:

Following public health guidance, masks will be required for high contact sports indoors (masks not required for high or low contact sports outdoors, and masks are not required, but strongly encouraged for low contact sports indoors).

- Football (Outdoors)
- Cross Country (Outdoors)
- Girls Field Hockey (Outdoors)
- Golf (Outdoors)
- Boys Volleyball (Indoor) Masks strongly encouraged.

Girls Basketball (Indoor – high contact) Masks required.

Spectators or visitors will not be allowed to attend tryouts/practices. Only coaches and student athletes can attend. Whether games/events can have spectators once seasons begin is still to be determined in consultation with our local public health units.

Coaches and athletes must wear masks and use distance in change rooms, equipment rooms, school hallways and washrooms, during team meetings, modelling of skill, sitting on the bench/sidelines, when watching other teammates scrimmage. Masks may be removed for safe participation in certain sports. There is to be no congregating or gathering prior to, during or after tryouts or practices.

The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low for indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment. High touch surface areas like Fitness Centre equipment and benches should continue to be cleaned as normal. The focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment, particularly when regular cleaning of shared objects is not feasible.

Student-Athletes:

- Attendance will be taken at each meeting/practice/tryout/game.
- Must complete the COVID-19 self screening daily and before practice and games.
- Have their own clearly labelled water bottle for personal use only.

Follow direction and guidance provided by coaching staff regarding physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, safe use of a non-medical/cloth mask, staying home when feeling ill, and monitoring symptoms.



Catholic School Council

Being part of the Holy Cross Catholic School Council is a great way to stay informed and provide input for your daughter or son's Catholic high school experience. If you would like to join the group, please express your interest by either emailing the school at flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca or by calling 613 384-1919 ext 3411. We generally meet about six times yearly. The first meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 21st at 6 p.m.** and will be held virtually as we are making a cautious entry into this school year and, for this month at least, are limiting visitors into the school. If you have any questions, please reach out.



Student Accident Insurance

Our School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by their Government Health Insurance Plan or their employer's health care plan. Parents should check with their provider(s) regarding their specific coverage. Most accident related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP or other any plans and expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy and emergency dental care may not be covered at all. This leaves the parent/guardian financially responsible for these unexpected expenses. To help protect your family, it is recommended that you consider obtaining student accident insurance, which provides coverage for these types of costs. As a convenience to you, the Board has made an arrangement to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids® program.

Participation is purely voluntary, and the costs of the plan are to be paid by the parent/guardian directly to the provider. This program is available for students up to age 26. Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses, including:

Dental expenses, includes 10 years unlimited dental benefit coverage, future dental up to \$1,650 per tooth, and injury related orthodontia coverage up to \$2,500 per accident.

Total and permanent disability, up to \$350,000

Loss of limb/loss of sight, hearing or speech

Accidental death

Ambulance fees And more!

The insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance program offers three plans with 24/7 coverage at affordable rates – ranging from \$17.00 per year and to their Platinum plan at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. All annual plans provide 13 months of coverage from the date of purchase.

If parents or guardians wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437. The insurance agreement is between You (the parent or guardian) and the insurance underwriter, Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.